

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of patentable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claims 3-6, 12, 15, 21, 24, and 30-32 are pending in the application. Claims 11, 20, and 29 have been cancelled. The remaining claims have been amended to better define the claimed invention. New claims 31-32 corresponding to amended claims 3 and 12, respectively, have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The specification, Abstract and FIGs. 6-7 have been revised in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The objections to the drawings, Abstract, specification and claims as well as the *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejection are believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

In particular, with respect to point 1) on page 4 of the Office Action, independent claim 3 has been revised to specify that it is the second optical/electrical converting element that outputs the first electrical signal into the first light modulating element. *See* the last paragraph of amended claim 3. The other independent claims have been amended to include the same or similar limitations. With respect to point 6) on page 5 of the Office Action, claim 5 has been amended to specify that the comparing element measures a difference between a phase of the second electrical signal with a phase of the reference electrical signal.

The double patenting rejection is moot as the rejected claims, i.e., claims 11, 20 and 29, have been canceled.

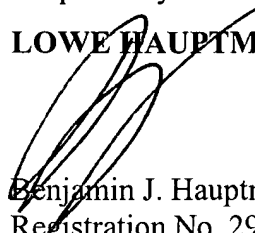
New claims 31-32 which are similar to claims 3 and 12, respectively, are believed patentable over the art for the reason stated in the Examiner's indication of patentable subject matter, on page 7 of the Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP



Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

USPTO Customer Number No.22429

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

(703) 684-1111 BJH/KL/klb

(703) 518-5499 Facsimile

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 6 and 7.

In FIG. 6, part “(a)” has been relabeled as --FIG. 6(a)-- and part “(b)” has been relabeled as --FIG. 6(b)--. Labels --Prior Art-- have been added below new labels “FIG. 6(a)” and “FIG. 6(b).” Original label “FIG. 6” has been deleted.

In FIG. 7, new label --Prior Art-- has been added below original label “FIG. 7.”

Attachment: Replacement Sheets